

Appln. No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The August 25, 2005 Final Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch as the present Amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Final Office Action claims 1, 4, 6-8, and 10-16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by USP 5,815,665 (Teper et al.) in view of USP 6,823,327 (Klug et al.).

In response, claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 11 are amended to more clearly define the present claimed invention over the cited references. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added (see the

Appln. No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

present application at page 12, line 26 - page 15, line 1 and page 17, line 25 - page 18, line 7, inter alia).

Claim 1 is directed to a method for responding to access to a service provider site (1) for providing contents via a communication network in which the service provider site transmits, when an access request is made from a requesting terminal (4-1) of an affiliation site (2-1) affiliated with the service provider's site (1), contents of the service provider site (1) to the requesting terminal (4-1). The method includes the steps of storing user verification data (user verification table in Fig. 5E) and an identifier (accounting office ID of Fig. 4B included in Fig. 5E) of the affiliation site affiliated with the service provider site both in the affiliation site and in the service provider site, and transmitting an access request from the affiliation site to the service provider site with an identifier of the affiliation site when the affiliation site receives an access request from the requesting terminal (see Fig. 3). The method further includes determining, by the service provider site, whether or not the access request is made via the affiliation site based on whether the access request includes the identifier of the affiliation site, changing, by the service provider site, a part of the content to be transmitted to the requesting terminal to predetermined information corresponding to

Appln. No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

the affiliation site when the access request is made via the affiliation site, transmitting, by the service provider site, the content including the predetermined information to the requesting terminal to wait for a user verification request from the requesting terminal to start service provision, and storing user information of the requesting terminal relating to the service provision into a session control table relating to the affiliation site.

USP 5,815,655 (Teper et al.), teaches that verification data is registered in a broker site in advance, and when access to a SP (Service Provider) site is made by a user, a verification request is transmitted to the broker site, which performs authentication. The SP site receives the authentication result, and depending on the authentication result, the user is allowed to access the SP site. Furthermore, even in accessing other SP sites, only a single password is required (the user will be authenticated with the same verification data). That is, the broker site only performs authentication at the first steps in which the user accesses various SP sites. Further, if the user wishes to receive the services which are provided through the SP sites, the user needs to access each of the different SP sites according to the kind of services to be obtained. It is not the broker site that provides services.

Appln. No. 09/867,160
Amendment dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

Similarly, USP 6,615,251 (Klug et al.) teaches that the user is required to access each of the different web sites according to the kind of services to be obtained if the user wants to receive services provided through the web site.

In contrast, in the present claimed invention, by accessing the affiliation site and selecting on a screen a service provider site that provides other services, the screen being the same as the one shown in, for example, FIG. 3, which shows services to be selected of the affiliation site, it is possible to receive different services that are linked from the service provider site. That is, from the user side, it is possible to obtain other services provided by the service provider site, as well as being able to select the services provided by the affiliation site through the screen. Therefore, since the user needs to remember accessing only one affiliation site, usability is improved. In addition, from the affiliation site side, since it is possible to add other services that cannot be covered at its own site by contracting with other service provider sites, services can be provided with greater flexibility and the method of the present invention has the effect of making it easier for the owner of the affiliation site to respond to the demands of the users.

Appln. No. 09/067,180
Amendment dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

In order to realize the feature that other services can be obtained through the screen of the affiliation site, an identifier of the affiliation site and user verification data are stored in the service provider site in advance, and when a user selects a site that provides the user the desired service through a screen of the affiliation site, the identifier of the affiliation site is transmitted to the site which provides the selected service. Claim 1 is amended to recite this feature.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1 and is patentable over the cited references in view of its dependence on claim 1 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claim 4.

Independent claims 6, 8, 10 and 11 are patentable over the cited references for reasons, inter alia, set forth above in connection with claim 1.

Claim 7, which is dependent on claim 6, and claims 12-14, which are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 11, are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on either claim 6 or 11 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of limitations set forth in the dependent claims.

Appln. No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED (FORM PTO 892)

In the Notice of References Cited (Form PTO 892) attached to the August 25, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner omitted USP 6,823,327 which is newly cited in the August 25, 2005 Office Action and applied against the claims by the Examiner. During a telephone conference with the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that he would list USP 6,823,327 (Klug et al.) on a Notice of References Cited in the next Patent Office communication.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner correct the Notice of References Cited to include USP 6,823,327 so that USP 6,823,327 is properly made of record in connection with this application.

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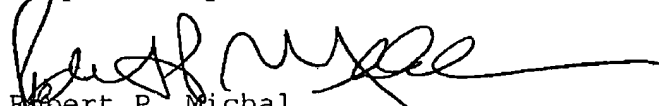
Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Appln. No. 09/867,180
Amendment dated November 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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